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INTERSECTION
See coverage on Rails End Gallery's exhibition on pages 2 and 3.

Wellness Corner with Kassie
Kassie Bradley encourages readers to learn about the sources of pain on page 5.

Granting graduation wishes
Read about the initiative that helps provide graduation dresses and suits to students on page 8.

Snow flies as Doug Forbes in car #80 drifts around the corner of the Minden ice racing track during the first weekend of the races on Feb. 4 and 5 hosted by the Minden Kin Club. See more photos on page 11. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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Intersection

JANET TRULL
Special to County Life

Thomas Chandler Haliburton was the chairman of the investment company that decided to open up these "uninhabited" Highlands for fun and profit in the 1860s. An author of international renown, a judge and a politician, he was a man of many accomplishments, but he never set foot in this town that bears his name. He signed his name to the purchase agreement of the Canadian Land and Emigration Company without ever watching the sun set on a Highland lake.

I wonder if old Thomas gave any consideration to the humans who occupied these 400,000 acres of old growth forests, teeming with wildlife. Not likely. "Civilizing" the wilderness was a business.

Of course, there was already an established civilization here, thousands of years in the making, with well-travelled hunting and fishing routes. It was the traditional homeland of the Ojibwe, the Huron/Wendat, the Mohawk, the Pottawatomi and the Métis Nations. It was called Gidaaki by the Anishinaabe people. Gidaa means "upwards" and ki means "the earth". In other words, high land. It was a land where cultures intersected. A land for artists.

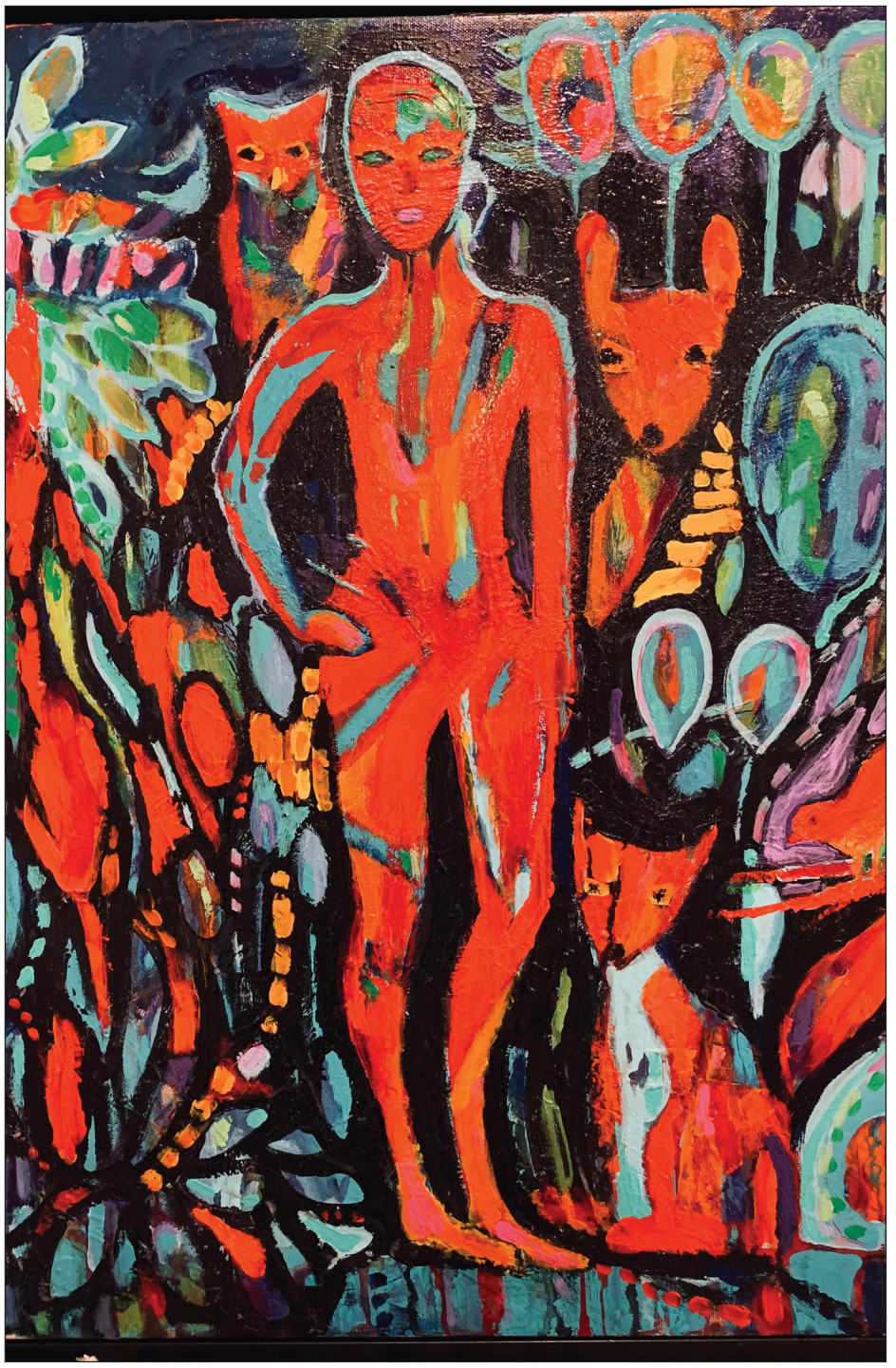
Using materials at hand, like clay and porcupine quills and birchbark and natural dyes, Indigenous artists created jewelry and pottery and sculptures. Art is about communicating and representing ideas in creative ways. These Highlands have changed, but they remain a source of endless inspiration for artists.

It is our great good fortune here in Haliburton to have a public art gallery. If you haven't been to Rails End Gallery on York Street lately, now is a good time to plan a visit. Admission is always free. Winter hours are Wednesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Until Apr. 1, the Annual Members Salon Exhibition is on display. This year's theme is Intersection. Every original work of art in this show is accompanied by an artist statement that tells the story of the artist's inspiration for their submission.

Here is mine.

Gidaaki means High Land in the Anishinaabe language. It identifies the part of the pre-Cambrian Shield known as the Haliburton Highlands. But, in the mid nineteenth century, Gidaaki intersected with colonization. I have used red in my painting as a symbol for intersection. The British Empire liked the colour red. Look at any world map during the late 1800's and you will see red. Red for India, South Africa, Australia, Canada, and many smaller Commonwealth countries.

Gidaaki did not appear on the new maps, the legal documents, the deeds of ownership. But it is not gone. It is evident in the vibrant colours and rough textures of our beloved highlands. Every lake, every ridge, and every fragrant layer of the forest floor is an invitation to be an artist. Lay your hand upon an ancient granite rock and feel the heartbeat of creativity.



Gidaaki by Janet Trull is part of the INTERSECTION exhibition at Rails End Gallery. /Submitted

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Canadian Tire *	**Pharmasave ***
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Intersecting at Rails End

Rails End Gallery and Arts Centres Annual Salon Exhibition opened Saturday, Feb. 4 with a reception that almost didn't happen. Earlier that day, I discovered the water had turned to ice, and the gallery was without "facilities". Luckily, the Welcome Centre was open and the 70 art lovers who showed up made do. There are 63 entries in the show, which is presented in person, and virtually in 3D with a catalogue at www.railsendgallery.com. Gallery visitors can vote for their favourite work of art and help decide the 2023 Peoples Choice, a super way to introduce family and friends to the art of seeing and chatting about how art impacts everyday life. Rails End is open Wednesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is always free. /LAURIE JONES Special to County Life

Art and Politics by Keli Schmidt stands in the foreground during the opening of INTERSECTION.

Juncture by Renee Woltz is part of Rails End Gallery's current exhibition, INTERSECTION.

How to Choose the Best Window Treatments

Choosing window treatments can be overwhelming, which is why we put together an overview of essentials to consider.

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Writing on the Senior Side

The takedown

GAIL STELTER
Special to *County Life*

There are three people in the car beside us. It is an extremely cold, dark January night at about 8:30 p.m. We approach the kiosk, and the guard abruptly says, "Give me your passports and your car keys!" (On reflection, I should have known right then that something was amiss. They don't usually ask for your car keys.)

The drama begins. Three guards, with guns drawn, approach the car beside us. Starting with the person in the back seat, each one is told to exit the car, put his hands on his head and the guard yells, "Don't turn around!" When they are well back from the car, they are told to lie down on the ground and the handcuffs are produced. I want to yell, "Hey, we are right here." I am thinking of collateral damage. Haven't they heard of collateral damage? Why don't they ask us to move out of harm's way?

I feel better when the occupants beside us are all in handcuffs. The takedown took what seemed like hours but was probably only 10 minutes. Did I tell you that he left us with the car window open and we are very cold?

The guard comes back to us, and I am expecting him to say something like, "I am sorry you folks had to sit through that." Oh my, was I wrong! The guard starts firing questions at Peter. Does this guard think we are with the people in the other car? The questions keep coming, and Peter answers and turns and looks at me.

"Stop looking at her! What is that?"

Peter doesn't respond, and the guard is getting louder, if that is possible.

"Her!"

"She is my wife."

More questions. I feel like he is trying to trick us. He asks about where we are going and how long. I have a copy of the rental lease of our Florida stay. It is in my purse, and I think it may be helpful, so I reach down to get it.

"Stop! Get your hands up and keep them where I can see them!"

This is not going well. My hands are up and shaking and still, the questions continue. After we have repeatedly established that we are going to Florida for three months, one of my favourites is, "Why are you going to Florida?" He's got to be kidding. We're old. We're Canadians. It is winter. What kind of ridiculousness is this? I don't say any of this, but I sure thinking it. Peter pauses. I know he is thinking what I am thinking, but he remains very calm and polite and says, "We are going on vacation. I am going to play golf." Too funny, but this seems to satisfy him, so the guard goes back again to what we are taking with us. We are driving our truck and it is full. It is true that Peter believes that whatever vehicle we are driving should be full. Peter begins the list by saying three sets of golf clubs, lawn chairs, cushions … The guard cuts him off before he can add the Tim Hortons coffee. Surely, if Peter could have added this, the guard would know we are just old Canadian seniors escaping winter.

Oh no, we are in trouble again.

"You have so much stuff in there! I can't tell what it is. I have a good mind to send you over to the garage and have the truck X-rayed."

I can tell Peter has had enough. Did I tell you we were cold? Peter responds with attitude, "Go ahead. I don't have anything to hide."

Oh my, now we are going to be X-rayed. Please don't let us be the stars of another takedown. Will this madness never end? Much to my surprise, Peter's response seems to have the opposite effect. The guard steps back into the cubicle saying, "I'm going to check you two out." Isn't that what he has been doing?

"It's been a year since you came through here."

How do you respond to that? We sit quietly. I want to say, also with attitude, that we told you we are Canadians, seniors, winter holiday … but that is not me, and anyway, I am still a nervous wreck.

He gives us our car keys and our passports and angrily says, "You can go."

We say, "Thank you." Now he must really know we are Canadians. There are so many other things to say, but we are polite, and we are not stupid. Breathe. Not the ending I saw coming, thank goodness!

Now, if you are thinking that I have exaggerated or embellished this story, you are wrong. This is how the takedown happened. Was it this year? No, it was several years ago. Did it ever happen again? Not quite like this, but there were three more, every bit as stressful, "processed at the border stories," and I hope to share one of these another time. That makes four in total out of fourteen winter escape border crossings. I guess that's not too bad. No, it's bad! Why does this happen to us? We are good people. I would repeat this, but I fear you will think I do protest too much. Okay, one more time. We are good people. We often share and laugh (funny when it's over) about the takedown, and sometimes Peter smiles and says that he thinks that maybe they don't like seniors who drive trucks! We are seniors who simply like to get out of dodge each winter. (Dodge is anywhere it is cold and snowy.)

Winter in dodge is long and so, even though getting out includes the stress of what will happen at the border, we are strong and determined to risk it!

So why, am I telling this story now? In a few days, we will be heading for the border. I will get very quiet as we drive up to the kiosk. When you read this story it will be a fait accompli and hopefully, I will have recorded the 2023 crossing as "uneventful," but I am skeptical. I will let you know. Keep warm, well, and safe, and here's to uneventful border crossings for all of us, especially those of us living on the senior side!

Poker Run brings in $17,000 for fire department

Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve raised $17,000 for Haliburton Fire Services during their annual Poker Run on Saturday, Feb. 11 and presented the cheque to the Dysart Fire Department. The event hosted 730 participants. /Submitted by Tegan Legge

Fear of the unknown

KASSIE BRADLEY
Wellness Corner wih Kassie

"My back feels sore, but I'm sure it will work itself out." I would say this mantra to myself, ignoring the discomfort brewing steadily in the base of my spine. I was young and strong; no need to be bothered by this on again off again ache that was my new normal. Often I would take an Advil and move on, never giving it another thought. Catch. Drive. Finish. Recovery. I would do this on repeat, sometimes for more than an hour at a time. Training, getting stronger and more efficient, ready to push my rowing shell through the water come spring.

I can still remember the blinding pain. A lightning bolt that shot from my lower back down my right leg. I couldn't move. I was terrified. What was this?! Why was this happening? My lower back felt as though it had exploded, and with every movement it got worse. Panic spread through my veins as I lay on the floor in my bedroom in North Bay, where I attended Nipissing University for my undergraduate degree. I knew I had to get to a doctor. Something was seriously wrong.

It was this experience that set me on my trajectory to becoming a chiropractor. Chiropractors are experts of the musculoskeletal system, simply put: the bones, muscles, and joints. This system gives your body its structure and support and lets you move around. I wanted to understand the human body, to understand and be able to answer the question "why?" So that no person ever had to feel the way I did that day.

One of the most debilitating issues we see in our practice is complaints of lower back discomfort. The majority of adults are likely to experience this at least once in their lifetime. In my experience, understanding where the pain is coming from is half the battle. It is important to understand that there are various pain generating structures in the lower back. This is not a one size fits all sort of issue. Different anatomical structures and pathophysiological functions can be responsible for lumbar pain. The muscles, intervertebral discs, facet joints, spinal cord, and the nerves exiting the spine are all examples of areas that need to be assessed to determine the source of discomfort. The treatment plan depends on the diagnosis. This means that there are different guidelines and treatments depending on what is happening in the lower back.

If you have experienced lower back pain, I strongly encourage you to find the source. This can be daunting in itself as most people are unsure of where to start. I recommend getting a thorough assessment from either a chiropractor or physiotherapist. Clinics and treatment styles vary and my advice is to do your research and find a fit that works for you. We are blessed in Haliburton County to have a wide variety of practitioners and multiple treatment options available to help those in need.

I challenge you to not fear your pain, but understand it, and learn how to beat it. I challenge you to stop ignoring it, stop masking it, and find out the source so you can live a healthy, active life.

A quiet afternoon in the park
Open water on the Drag River reflects trees in Head Lake Park in Haliburton. /ADAM FRISK Special to *County Life*

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County Life is produced by The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times, and published by White Pine Media Corp.

Audited circulation: 6,372 July 1 - Dec 31, 2015

CMCA AUDITED

Sweeter days are coming

KATE BUTLER
Special to *County Life*

THE TEMPERATURE outside may be minus ten degrees as I write this, but there's something different in the air – have you noticed?

Even on a day when there's snow to be shoveled, you can watch the sunshine melt that bit of snow that the shovel leaves behind, sometimes within moments. That sunshine, when it hits your face, feels a little bit warmer, especially as the days gradually get longer.

Yes, it may still be winter, but spring isn't that far away. Early spring often seems to approach with a bit of a tease, bright warm days that might be followed by a blast of snow, but the overall trajectory still seems to be onwards and upwards, so it's easier to deal with those bad weather days.

If there's still snow on the ground, you can take solace in the thought that it's hiding those bits of garden clean-up that were forgotten last autumn, but you can still sit in the sunshine with the seed catalogues and imagine the growing season to come. A sudden balmy day means hats, mitts and even jackets get accidentally left behind in parks and playgrounds and sometimes even totally forgotten until another frosty day rolls in.

Early spring can be a time to simply watch the world around us wake up again, as we all give a big stretch after our collective hibernation, whether literal or metaphorical. In the Haliburton Highlands those stretches often seem to lead humans to the nearest maple tree. The making of maple syrup always seems to me to be a tangible connection with history, because it simply can't be rushed. (I will admit to having once tried, which resulted in some rather charred candy!)

Though today, large operations may use elaborate

systems to collect sap, the process still depends on the weather and the trees delivering their bounty drip by drip. Even the process of boiling sap, whether you do it the old-fashioned way over a wood fire or you use a modern evaporator, requires patience and a watchful eye. The basic science of syrup making seems easy and approachable, however, which leads many people to give it a shot.

The process, by its nature, invites sociability and the liminal time between seasons gives us the opportunity to enjoy it fully. Though we don't have many early photos of local sugar shacks in the collection at the Haliburton Highlands Museum, those we do have show large gatherings of extended family and friends – far more people than would technically be needed to make a batch of syrup!

In addition to the many people across Haliburton County who dabble in making syrup, there are also several professional maple syrup producers in the County who are experts at what they do. If you don't make your own, I encourage you to shop and support local when you're thinking about what to put on your pancakes.

If you would like to find out more about the history of maple syrup production, stop by the Haliburton Highlands Museum during March Break, where we'll be sharing some of the sights, smells and tastes of early spring from well over a century ago. Let's fully enjoy those fleeting sweet days as winter makes starts to make way for spring!

Top 10 reasons why the weather forecasters get it wrong

SURE, IT IS easy to get mad at the meteorologists for a mistake in the forecast. But the truth is they are only human – and that means they make mistakes. And, like anyone who makes a mistake, they have a pile of excuses why they did that too.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

With that ion mind, here are the top 10 excuses weather forecasters use to explain why they were wrong.

1. Huraca'n K'iche, the Mayan God of weather, winds, storms, and fire, is displeased with my latest sacrifice.
2. When I said it would be a beautiful, sunny day, I was being ironic.
3. The coin I tossed must be faulty.
4. Our weather balloons keep getting shot down.
5. Who would have guessed those clouds over the fair turned out to be actual cotton candy?
6. Excuse me! I looked at radar screen upside down.
7. Projected rainfall only fell on parades.
8. I hardly ever paid attention in meteorology school.
9. Because you chose this day to forget your umbrella.
10. Sorry, I didn't think you still had expectations.

Twilight gossip

Fish huts perch on shifting puddles
Setting sun hits up each wall
Sending down long string reflections
Like an ink pen's leaking scrawl
Of dark lines mixed up with golden
Shreds of hot dusk over ice
Just a shocking artist moment
When an evening's asking price
Is to notice those few minutes
That brief episode of grace
Wherein loudest birds are silent
As they too watch heaven's face
Since there's scarcely hint of hardness
Even shadows sing soft blue
Black and white both briefly absent
In ephemeral preview
Though the lake stays locked in motion
And odd snow still faffs about
Local dogwood starts to redden
Willows' yellow fleshes out
Next, horizon loses gleaming
Single planet flares in west
As it rises, dusk shrinks darker
Moon's a fingernail at best
Final raven croaks departure
It is cold here after all
Though the weeks now gossip changes
Winter stays until that call

By Deborah J Reed

Rainbow Registration welcomes all

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Staff

A space to feel welcome. A space to feel safe. A space to feel seen. Everyone deserves that feeling.

That's why the Canadian Gay and Lesbian+ Chamber of Commerce (CGLCC) is inviting businesses to receive their Rainbow Registered accreditation program for 2SLGBTQI+ friendly spaces.

"Not only is having 2SLGBTQI+ friendly policies in your company the right thing to do – it's also good for business," the CGLCC website states. So far, only two Haliburton County businesses are Rainbow Registered. Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast received their accreditation two years ago, and Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve was just approved recently.

"Being Rainbow Registered doesn't mean we just put up a rainbow flag for Pride Month," said Tegan Legge, general manager of the Forest, "it means everything. It's our language, our pronouns, our harassment policies, our employment opportunities, our marketing, our collaboration."

Legge shared that she is overjoyed at being Rainbow Registered. "It's going to make it easier for people to find us, and know we offer a safe and welcoming space for everyone."

The staff at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve have routinely celebrated Minden Pride for years, but are happy to be officially Rainbow Registered so that their facility is welcoming to everyone. From L to R, Tegan Legge, Marena Wigmore, Cameron Ferguson, Ines Lancia, and Melissa Pockett celebrate Pride Week in 2022. /photo submitted

When businesses earn the accreditation, they are added to the CGLCC directory, and meet regularly and consistently to showcase their offerings, events, and business visions together.

Sally Moore, the owner and operator of Sunny Rock, was amongst the first to join the CGLCC. Now, there are over 160 businesses across Canada who are involved.

Moore shared that over her years in the tourism sector, she has witnessed first-hand the disparaging treatment towards members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community. "I think it's really important to create a safe space for people," she said. "There are lots of different opportunities for people to experience the Haliburton Highlands."

She told the Times that through her years of seeing defamatory treatment, she made it her personal goal to create that space where everyone felt welcomed. "I wanted to create that personal safe space, and in order to do that, I came across this process of meeting the Canadian standard."

Moore noted that while all businesses, organizations, and groups are allowed to apply for the accreditation, not all will necessarily be approved. She shared that in order to qualify, individuals should have some level of involvement and interest in the 2SLGBTQI+ community, and must be dedicated to welcoming everyone, at all times.

"It's a good process to go through when you apply," she said. "Sometimes, there are things you think you're doing right, but the process makes you really sit back and think, 'hey, maybe I can be doing this better.'"

Upon receiving accreditation to be Rainbow Registered through the CGLCC, businesses will receive a welcome kit that includes a decal to let visitors know they are a safe space, as well as a graphic to add to their social media and website. Any and all businesses and organizations can apply, and currently, there is no fee to be involved.

"If you feel like you can provide a safe space for everyone, then you should be considering this process," said Moore. Everyone deserves to feel welcome. To learn more about becoming rainbow registered or the CGLCC as a whole, visit www.cglcc.ca/programs/rainbow-registered/

Dancing for Ukraine
Ukrainian dancers Jenn Doroniuk and Paul Doroniuk perform a traditional dance at Kolomeijka for Ukraine, a celebration of Ukrainian music, food and dance at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton on Saturday, Feb. 25. Guests were treated to a presentation of traditional Ukrainian dance and food in an effort to raise money for Cobblestone Freeway Foundation, an Edmonton-based not-for-profit supporting Ukraine and its culture. /ADAM FRISK Special to *County Life*

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Note: Vendors who qualified in 2022 as a Preferred Vendor for Advertising and Marketing Communications Services will continue to be Preferred Vendors -- they do not need to respond to this posting (no need to re-qualify).

Ontario

A decade of making dreams come true

AMANDA DUNCOMBE-LEE
Special to *County Life*

An Adult Education graduate and her daughter, a Kindergarten graduate, wearing the dresses they found for their special day. /Photo by Chantel Smith

Ten years ago, Lochlin resident Jenn Abbott donated a prom dress to a local youth looking for one, and it sparked an idea for something bigger.

"That's how it started – I loved the idea. I got the ball rolling and created a name and a Facebook page, and it kind of exploded from there," she said.

Make Dreams Come True is a volunteer service run out of Abbott's home that offers free clothing and accessories to graduating students needing formal wear.

The dresses, suits and accessories (including shoes, jewelry, belts and hats) are available to Grade 8, Grade 12, and Adult Education students from Haliburton County who need them for graduation, prom, or semi-formal.

The homeschooling mother of four estimates that she gets requests from between 15-20 students per year, and that numbers have been climbing as clothing and transportation costs increase.

"People don't want to go out and buy a suit or dress they might only wear once or twice," she said. "There's a lot of need for it. It's hard to go grad shopping because there's nothing up here, and people have to travel, and it's expensive."

"It's been going strong. We're now in our tenth year."

In the past, Abbott set up the service in local community centres and service clubs as a one-day event where people could visit to donate or pick up dresses and suits. She now runs the service from her home in Lochlin.

"Since Covid, and because I'm a one man show, we do it differently," said Abbott. "I start pulling out everything from storage in March and April. The second people can get me their colour and size, and the specifics of what they're looking for, I go through what I have and there might be five options in the bag. Whatever outfits they choose not to keep, they bring back."

The Make Dreams Come True service offers a free goody bag that includes jewellery, makeup and sunglasses, and a free 25-minute family photo session with Chantal Smith, who has provided photography services since the initiative started ten years ago. Abbott also arranges for students to get their nails and hair done with participating local businesses.

She said students usually find what they want because of the large variety of donated materials in her storage – around 1000 dresses, suits, and shoes. Some of the donations are unused, with price tags attached. Alterations can be arranged at a cost.

Abbott said the service is only possible thanks to the donations of products and services by businesses and individuals.

"This is community giving back to the community. Without businesses and individuals donating their time and doing the things that they do, it wouldn't be possible."

Abbott accepts clothing and accessory donations in good, clean condition any time of year and welcomes donations from individuals living outside the County.

She urges interested students and parents to contact her as soon as they know their clothing preferences so she can go through the options in her inventory.

Donors, parents and students can contact her through the Make Dreams Come True Facebook page, or text her at 705-286-0906.

Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m. Schofield Room.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
Wednesdays:
Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall.
Bingo doors open at 6 p.m.
Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500 Jackpot
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcll129@outlook.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Wilberforce

Mar. 2: 2 to 6 p.m.
Mar. 3: 2 to 9 p.m. Pool 2 p.m.
Fish and chips, chicken fingers and fries 5 to 8 p.m.
Mar. 4: 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw 3 p.m.
Mar. 5 and 6: Closed
Mar. 7: Closed Executive meeting 7pm
Mar. 8: Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2pm

Everyone welcome!

If you are planning a function for social or other event providing our guidelines/ conditions are met, please feel free to contact us at 705-448-2221.

Friday dinners are in jeopardy due to lack of volunteers. Please reach out ASAP if you want to help. Young people come out and show the elders how it's done!!

EAT Cheeserie + Cocktails and Ommmh in Minden welcomed guests for an night of fun at their Trivia & Cocktails event on Thursday, Feb. 23. Follow @ommmhminden and @eatminden for updates on future EAT events. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

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Terry Carr & Drew Staniforth
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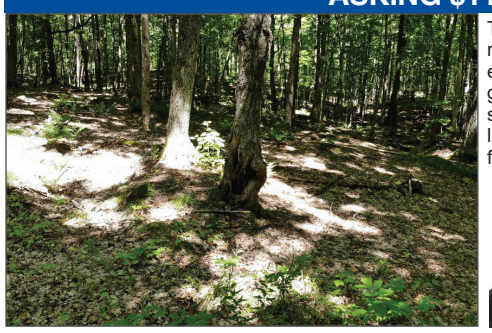
ASKING $119,900



This 2.348 acre parcel with 251' of year round township maintained road frontage has everything you look for in a vacant lot with great options for building sites. The lot is quite scenic with large mature hardwoods but very little underbrush so you can see through the forest quite clearly. Another bonus 100 yards or so away is the HCSA groomed snowmobile trail!

Vince Duchene
Broker
705-457-0046
www.vinceduchene.ca

BIG STRAGGLE LAKE $499,900

- Cozy 3 bed/1 bath; 3 seas cottage
- Level lot on desirable 2 lake chain
- Spacious layout with pretty views
- Picturesque setting, nicely treed
- Has a creek, 2 foot bridges & paths
- Yr-rnd private rd, EBB, lake water

Rick Forget
Broker
705-457-0580
haliburtonhighlands-remax.ca

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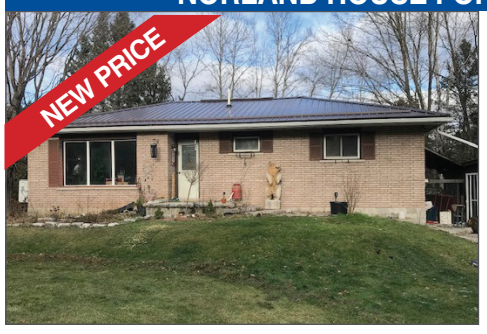

- Three + Two Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Two Driveways Private Setting
- Includes Vacant Lot next Door

Lynda Litwin
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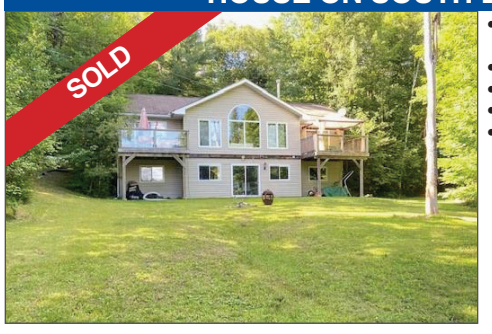
705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

HOUSE ON SOUTH LAKE $859,000



- 4 Season home or cottage minutes to Minden
- Level lot just under 1 acre
- 100 feet of water frontage
- 3 bedrooms & 1 bath on main floor
- Unfinished basement with walkout to lake

Kelly Mercer
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705-455-7500
kelly@kelly-mercer.ca

MINDEN COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY $879,000.00

Property includes a two bedroom and three bedroom apartment; small business office, retail store, multiple storage units along with plenty of parking spaces. This property is already generating income. New roof Fall of 2022.

Lisa Mercer Broker
705-457-0364 • www.lisamercer.ca

1224 TOM BOLTON ROAD $525,000

1 1/2 storey home and hobby farm located on 12 picturesque acres centrally located between Minden and Haliburton - huge country kitchen and dining area - loads of pine cabinets - walk in pantry - living room and family combined - 3 bedrooms - 2 baths - 22 ft. x 48 ft. barn with hay loft - large shed - very private.

Ted Vasey
Sales Representative
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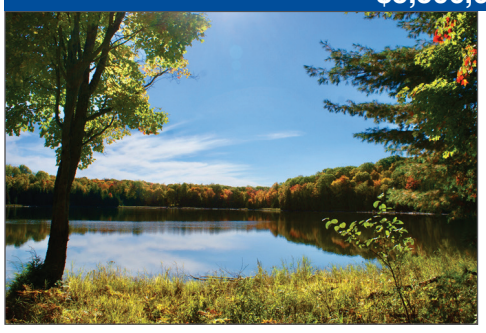
ted@tedvasey.ca

$5,500,000



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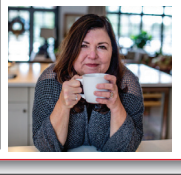

Cheryl Bolger
Sales Representative
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‘Once a Hawk, always a Hawk’

VIVIAN COLLINGS
County Life Staff

HHSS alumni, Jenn Mills and Martin Gage, are the new principal and vice principal of the school and aim to create inclusive opportunites for all students. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

The saying at the corner of the hallway across from the main office in Haliburton Highlands Secondary School rings true for principal Jenn Mills and vice principal Martin Gage.

Both are graduates of HHSS, and the Red Hawks alumni have taken their new positions by the talons to lead the school to be an inclusive environment full of opportunities.

“We want to reach everyone, and we want everyone that comes through these doors to feel connected to the school, not just in academics, but in other ways, too,” said Mills. “We want the students’ mental health, wellbeing, and sense of belonging to be a top priority.”

Since transitioning from vice principal to principal when Chris Boulay took a position with the Trillium Lakelands District School Board, Mills has put a strong emphasis on “school life”, which was her favourite part of attending HHSS as a teenager.

Although some things have changed since she walked the halls lined with red lockers and encouraging quotes, the benefits of extracurriculars have not.

“My main message to students is to find a way to get involved. It helps you meet more people outside your social groups and you get to know the staff in a different environment. And this hasn’t changed,” she said. “My favourite part of HHSS as a teenager was being involved in school life, being on sports teams, getting involved in activities or school events, and creating lasting friendships.”

In addition to academics, students can choose to be part of plenty of different clubs, sports, or social activities, all run by staff members who volunteer their time or the students themselves.

The school offers Interact, eco, math, chess, knitting, and book clubs as well as intramural and team sports.

Events like school dances and spirit days have returned.

To address students’ mental health, the school’s counselor Nichole Fielder and other staff members are launching the Self Care Crew and have created a safe space for students to spend time in and learn about wellness.

“We couldn’t do any of it without the amazing staff here,” Mills said.

The energy at the school is palpable. For the staff at HHSS, teaching isn’t just a job, which, in turn, broadens the definition of being a student at the school.

“Our staff put so much into volunteering extra time to create opportunities outside the classroom. I think the kids notice it,” she said.

It helps to forge new relationships between staff and students built on mutual respect.

“They don’t just see them as their teachers. That’s the goal, to have a culture of inclusivity among everyone at the school,” Mills said.

Although she didn’t know how her career would play out at the time, the HHSS alumna had teaching at the back of her mind since walking across the stage at graduation.

After receiving her undergraduate and master’s degree, Mill’s plan was to get her doctorate to become a professor, but the highlands were calling her back.

“My husband and I both wanted to come back to Haliburton County to raise a family and be closer to our families, so I took the path to teacher’s college, and I am so glad I did. I love this community,” she said.

It was the same for Gage, who has lived in Haliburton since age 11.

He worked as a teacher in Haliburton County from 2008 until 2017, and then took a position as vice principal of Bobcaygeon Public School, transitioning to Adult and Alternate Learning Education, and then working at Fenelon Falls Secondary School before returning home.

“The position of vice principal wasn’t something I always wanted, but is something I grew to want. The most rewarding part is getting to work with the many amazing students I have met over the years, and watching them grow into young adults,” Gage said.

Mills said Gage has been an integral part of the team. Both are excited for the future of the school and to continue providing more opportunities for students that they will take with them for their entire lives.

“We’ll create the spaces, the clubs and the activities when students ask. That’s why I love it here so much. The energy in this school in both the staff and students is so welcoming, fun, and inviting,” Mills said.

HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES

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Thurs, Mar. 9, Buffy St-Marie: Carry It On

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May 11: I Like Movies

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Start your engines

Drivers get the green flag to start their qualifying race during the first weekend of the Minden Ice Races on Feb. 4 and 5 at the Minden Fairgrounds. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Gerrit Kooistra in car #37 and Dustin Brown in car #167 battle for a position around a corner.

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Ice racing cars crowd together during the first round of their race.

Walter Prinsen in car #194 finishes the final laps of his qualifying race.

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

The Highlands Corridor:

A nature-based solution to building climate change resilience, protecting lands and waters, and maintaining biodiversity.
When: Friday, Mar 3 at 7 p.m.,
Where: Haliburton Outdoor Association's Fish Hatchery, 6712 Gelert Rd.,
What: Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Laurie Scott will be at the Haliburton Outdoor Association's Fish Hatchery, as the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) introduces their exciting new initiative to protect the Highlands Corridor. Protecting the Highlands Corridor offers a nature-based solution to climate change resilience, protecting lands and waters, and maintaining biodiversity. Shelley Hunt, HHLT Chair, and Paul Heaven will present HHLT's strategies for protecting this valuable wildlife corridor.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A portrait of a raven. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A male Downy woodpecker climbs a branch. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A doe peeks from behind another. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A fisher walks down a snowy corridor. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A chickadee perches on fresh snow. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A Mourning dove cooes from a cedar tree. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

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Four positions available
Our Housekeeping and Laundry areas are managed with teams split between Housekeeping and Laundry.
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Grounds Keeping/Maintenance - Full Time, Temporary, Contract
Two positions available
Our Maintenance and Construction Team are managed with teams split between the Maintenance and Construction Team and Grounds Keeping.
Responsibilities include: keeping the grounds clean and clear of garbage and waste, grass cutting and leaf blowing, landscape maintenance, empty garbage receptacle, operation of front loader, painting, delivery wood for firepits. Sundry duties as assigned. Manual labour or construction experience will be an asset.
Expected Start date: Spring 2023
Candidates will be cross-trained and or assigned to areas based on existing skills and previous work experience. Candidates must enjoy working outside. A typical work week is 40 hours with potential for overtime. Willing to take required government safety certifications such as WHMIS. Able to support a positive team environment.
Salary: Housekeeping / Laundry or Grounds Keeping: $17.50 - $19.50 per hour based on experience. Maintenance with construction/building experience: $25.00 and up.
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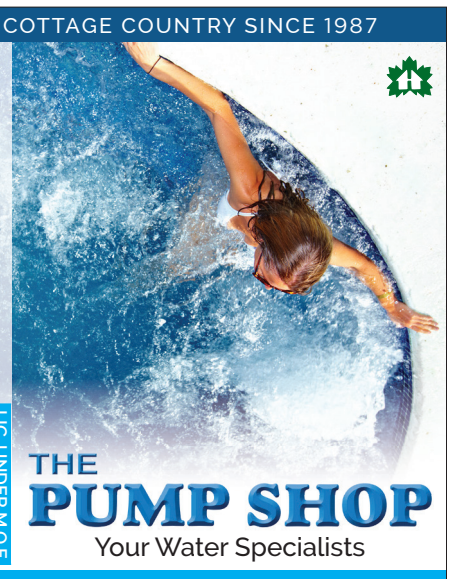

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

LEAP YEAR BIRTHDAY
Jordan LaPierre is only two but he can read and play hockey. Find out why he's so special

FAMILY DAY A SUCCESS
Ice storm makes for a quiet Monday but not many people are complaining

IN THE PLAYOFFS
Red Hawks find their skating legs in first round of Kawartha hockey playoffs

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008 www.haliburtonecho.ca VOL. 125 NO. 9 $1.25 INCL. GST

The race is on

Jacques Villeneuve will be one of the participants in weekend's Highland Cup

MATT JAMES
Staff Reporter

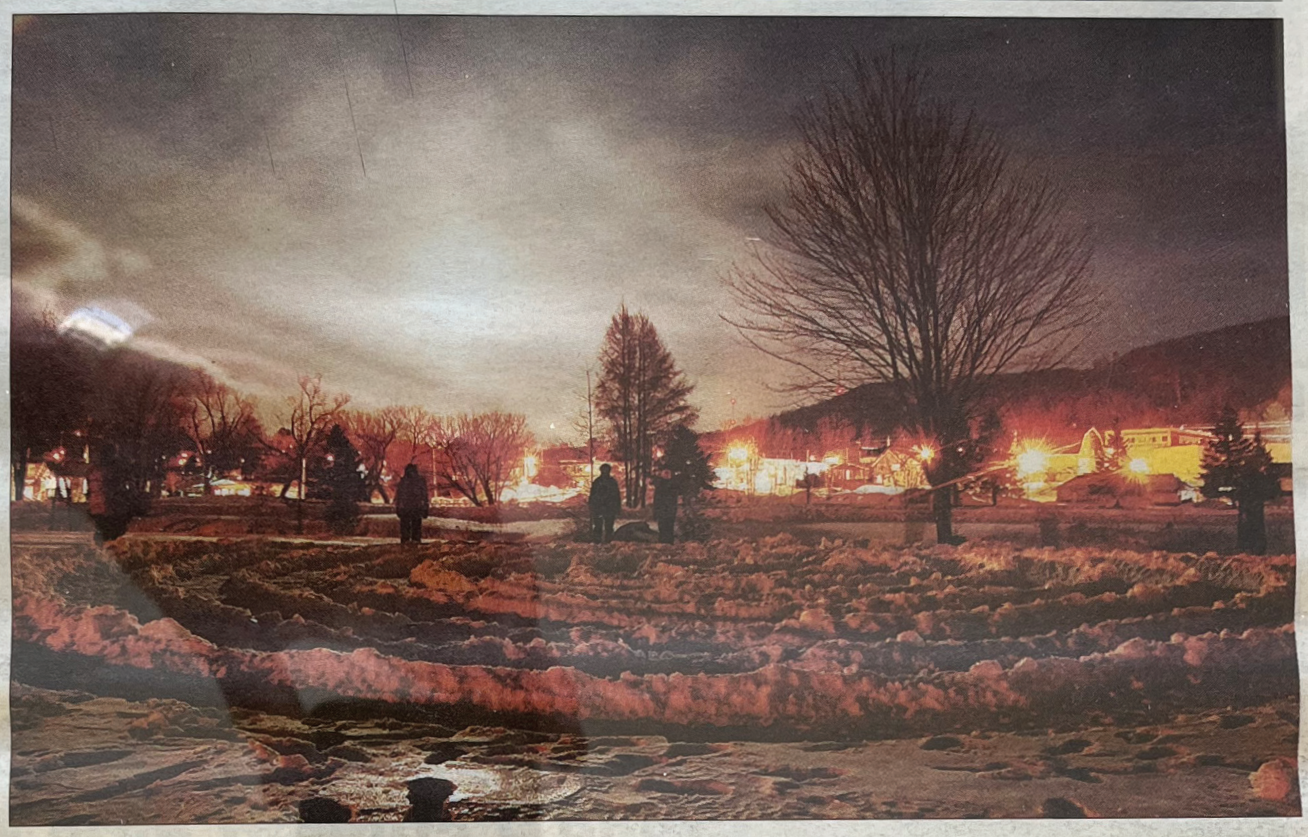
Highland Cup organizer Harold Foyster and his small crew have less than a week left to prepare the racetrack on Head Lake for the 2008 Highland Cup Ice Oval Snowmobile Races on March 1 and 2.

"We're just working on the track right now," said Foyster who has been plowing the course every time it snows. Since he started in mid-December the track has been subject to all sorts of weather — rain, mild temperatures, freezing rain and a fair share of snow.

The long-range forecast looks friendly with sub-zero temperatures leading up to race day but there's still some snow to come so Foyster's clearing duties may not be done yet.

In addition, there are 1,300 hay bales going around the track to give drivers and the audience a bit of protection in the event of a crash.

See **Spectators** *page 17*



MATT JAMES/Echo

A walk in the park

On Thursday night a small group gathered for the Full Moon Labyrinth Walk organized by the Rails End Gallery and Health For Life. The maze-like labyrinth, approximately 1,000 steps round trip, was constructed in seven hours by Rails End executive director Laurie Jones and a couple of helpers. Labyrinths are Jones' personal passion and she wanted to share the experience with others. The labyrinth is still in the park if others want to have a walk around. Meanwhile, take a peek at the previous night's lunar eclipse on page 8.

Fund puts $564,000 in local economy

GREG HOEKSTRA
Staff Reporter

It was all smiles at the Haliburton County Development Corporation last Thursday when MP Barry Devolin came to town with a cheque for more than half a million dollars.

Community members and business leaders filled the organization's Maple Avenue office to celebrate the news that $564,000 will be infused into the local economy in 2008 as part of the Eastern Ontario Development Program.

The money supports HCDC initiatives such as the skills development program, which pays 50 per cent of training costs for business owners and their employees, the business planning initiative, which helps businesses develop business, marketing, or export plans, and the access to capital program, which provides interest-free loans to businesses and encourages economic development.

Now in its fourth year, Devolin said the program is both important and unique in that it allows the decisions to be made at a local level regarding how the funding should be distributed.

"Most parts of the federal and provincial governments are hierarchical. Decisions are made in the capital by ministers and deputy ministers, and then if flows down to a regional manager somewhere who implements decisions that have been made," Devolin told those gathered on Thursday.

"This is a little different in that the money still flows from the top, but the decisions are made by a volunteer board here in Haliburton County. It makes a whole lot more sense to commit dollars to the area and then let local community leaders decide where those dollars could best go," he said. "The priorities in Haliburton might be very different than the priorities in

See **Money** *page 20*

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